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From the Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Intersections* features essays by four people whom I got to know as part of the first Lutheran Academy of Scholars. You can begin, I hope, to get a feeling for the quality of conversation we were able to have together from the depth of concern and the variety of viewpoints represented here. We hope to publish more such papers in the future.

Genuine conversation is a gift and an art, particularly when it takes place between people who are each specialists in some particular academic area. We are all tempted to wear our specialist masks and speak only from our lecturers podium. But genuine conversation requires something more than that. It requires that we speak as human beings, and that we listen to what others, who may speak with a slightly different academic accent, are saying. The Lutheran Academy was an opportunity for such genuine conversation. As such it was an extremely valuable experience. I only hope that DHES or the Council of ELCA Presidents finds some way to continue these Academies into the future.

In addition to the four essays from academy members, this issue features an *Intersections* first: A response to a response to a review. That is to say we now have evidence of a continuing conversation, in this case between Baird Tipson and Robert Benne. I am very happy to see this. At some point it might be fun to get these folks at the same table and then see where this extremely important conversation might turn. It's a conversation about something vitally important to us, namely what the paradigm of Lutheran higher education should be. Thanks to both Benne and Tipson for their contributions.

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